

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are presented for further examination. Claims 3 and 17-19 have been amended. Claims 20-24 are new.

In the Office Action mailed September 29, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,646,666 ("Burrier") or in the alternative as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,898,943 ("Braden et al."). Remarks accompanying the rejection state that the language "an eight-point star" is considered descriptive of a desired design and there is no language pertaining or defining a star in the body of the claims or any structure pertaining or defining eight points. Claims 1-16 were found to be allowable.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-16. Further examination is requested with respect to claims 17-23.

Claim 3 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added. Claim 3 is thus still in condition for allowance.

Claims 17-19 have been amended to now be directed to an object having a geometric shape, particularly the shape of an eight-point star that is formed from a combination of a limited number of shapes. More particularly, claim 17 recites an object having the shape of an eight-point star that comprises a plurality of only rectangle and square pieces that are formed only of combinations of smaller rectangle and square pieces, the plurality of rectangular and square pieces joined together to form the shape of the eight-point star. Claim 18 recites an object having a geometric shape that comprises a plurality of rectangle pieces formed from a combination of only smaller squares and rectangles, the plurality of rectangle pieces combined together to form an eight-point star. Claim 19 similarly recites an object in the shape of an eight-point star that comprises a combination of only square pieces that are formed from a combination of only square-shaped and rectangle-shaped pieces, the square pieces attached together to form the shape of an eight-point star.

While Braden et al. and Burrier both teach methods of creating fabric pieces that involve the use of geometric shapes, such as squares and rectangles, nowhere do Burrier or Braden et al., taken alone or in any combination thereof, teach or suggest the formation of an eight-point star. Moreover, there is no teaching in either reference of how to combine a plurality of geometric shapes, such as rectangular pieces or a combination of rectangular and square pieces or only square pieces

that are formed from a combination of only square-shaped and rectangle-shaped pieces to create an eight-point star.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-19 are allowable over the references cited by the Examiner.

New claim 20 is directed to a fabric device that comprises a plurality of fabric blocks, each fabric block formed from a plurality of only square-shaped and rectangle-shaped segments, the square-shaped and rectangle-shaped segments combine together to form an eight-point star. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 and dependent claim 21 are allowable for the reasons why claims 17-19 are allowable.

Independent claim 22 is directed to a method of forming a fabric device that comprises combining a plurality of fabric blocks, each fabric block formed by the method recited in allowable claim 3. Independent claim 23 is directed to a method of making a quilt that comprises combining a plurality of fabric blocks together, each fabric block formed by the method recited in allowable claim 8. Claim 24 recites a method that is similar in approach in claim 17. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22 through 24 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits all of the claims in this application are now clearly in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously

resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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